

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00408 151100Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4727

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN, PINT, SHUM, CZ
SUBJ: DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAK "NORMALIZATION"
PROGRAM FOR EMIGRES

REF: PRAGUE 0331

1. DURING FEB 14 CALL AT MFA CONSULAR DIVISION, HOUZVICKA SAID THAT NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN ON THE SUBJECT OF A POSSIBLE "AMNESTY" AS DISCUSSED REFTEL. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IN ABOUT A MONTH'S TIME A DECISION WILL BE MADE "AT A HIGH LEVEL" WHEREBY PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES WHO HAVE BEGUN THE "NORMALIZATION" PROCESS WOULD ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS BE PERMITTED TO VISIT CZECHOSLOVAKIA PRIOR TO FINAL RESOLUTION OF THEIR APPLICATION TO "NORMALIZE."

2. COMMENT: THIS, LIKE THE STREAMLINING OF VISITS BY CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS TO RELATIVES ABROAD APPLYING FOR "NORMALIZATION" (SEE PARA 1 OF REFTEL), IS PART OF WHAT SEEMS TO BE AN ON-GOING EFFORT TO MAKE "NORMALIZATION" MORE PALATABLE ABROAD. THIS DEVELOPMENT, PRESUMABLY, WILL HAVE LIMITED IMPORTANCE IN THE UNITED STATES AS THERE ARE FEW APPLICANTS FOR "NORMALIZATION." ALSO, ONE WOULD ANTICIPATE RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF APPLICANTS TO RETURN TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA PRIOR TO THEIR
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NATURALIZATION AS AMERICAN CITIZENS. WE CANNOT YET SAY WHETHER OR WHEN A MORE SWEEPING "AMNESTY," SUCH AS THAT DISCUSSED PARA 2 OF REFTEL, MAY BE FORTHCOMING.
BYRNE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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